

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on 442/94 (MDE 30/24/94, 14 December 1994) - and follow-up(s): MDE 30/01/95, 6 January 1995 - Fear of torture/ill-treatment

new concern: Prisoner of Conscience

TUNISIA Jalel MAALEJ, researcher

Jalel Maalej was tried in Sfax on 4 February 1995, on charges of membership of an unauthorized association (*Al-Nahda*) and of attending meetings of this association in France, both of which charges he denies. He was sentenced on 8 February 1995 to three years' imprisonment and two years' *contrôle administratif* (administrative control; this means that after serving his prison sentence, he would have to report regularly to the police for a two-year period).

The date for Jalel Maalej's appeal hearing has not yet been set.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A new article added in November 1993 to the Tunisian Code of Penal Procedure made it possible to imprison Tunisian nationals for peaceful activities in other countries, such as attending meetings, which are considered an offence in Tunisia - even if these are not considered an offence in the country where they took place. Several people have already been imprisoned under this new law and are considered to be prisoners of conscience.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in French, Arabic, English or in your own language:

- stating that Amnesty International considers Jalel Maalej to be a prisoner of conscience and asking for his immediate and unconditional release;
- urging that his appeal be carried out in full accordance with international standards for fair trial and in compliance with international treaties, to which Tunisia is a state party, which guarantee freedom of expression and association.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice

M. Sadok Chaâbane
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis, Tunisie

Faxes: +216 1 568 106

Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie

Salutation: Excellence/Your Excellency

2) Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Habib Ben Yahia
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
Place du Gouvernement, La Kasbah

Tunis

Tunisie

Faxes : +216 1 791 005

Telexes: 14470 mafta tn 14471 mafta tn 14472 mafta tn

Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires étrangères Ben Yahia,

Tunis, Tunisia

Saluation: Excellence/Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

M. Salem Makki

Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des droits de l'homme

Palais Présidentiel

Carthage/Tunis

Tunisia

Faxes: +216 1 731 009 or +216 1 742 513

Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH

21 Rue Imam el Bakri

1002 TUNIS Belvedere

Tunisia

Fax: +216 1 801599

and to diplomatic representatives of TUNISIA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 March 1995.